

Message Text

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61

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 IO-09 /193 W

----- 095751

R 120730Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4482

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS DAKAR 4036

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652N/A

FOR PARIS FOR RAICHT

ROME FOR FODAG

SUBJ: 1973 CROP PROSPECTS MALI

1. CURRENT PROSPECT MALI BEST DESCRIBED AS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC
BASED VISITS PARTS SECOND THIRD AND FOURTH REGIONS AND DISCUSSIONS
GOM OFFICIALS BY ADO REGIONAL GRAIN OFFICER AND EMB OFF LATE AUGUST.
CHIEF CHARACTERISTIC IS INCREASED AREA SEEDED GRAIN OFTEN AT EXPENSE
COTTON AND PEANUTS.

2. ACCORDING ALL REPORTS WESTERN AND SOUTHERN MALI (ALL FIRST
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REGION, SOUTHERN HALF SECOND REGION AND MOST THIRD REGION) HAVE

RECEIVED GOOD RAINFALL AND CROPS APPEAR NEAR NORMAL. DRY PERIOD EXPERIENCED IN JULY BUT MOST PLANTINGS SURVIVED UNTIL ARRIVAL GOOD GENERAL RAINS ABOUT JULY 20.

3. BY CONTRAST NORTH-CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN MALI RECEIVED SPORODIC RAINS JUNE-EARLY JULY SUFFICIENT GERMINATE SEEDINGS BUT WHICH OFTEN FAILED SURVIVE UNTIL GOOD RAINS O/A JULY 20. MANY FARMERS REPORTEDLY REPLANTED UP TO FOUR TIMES THUS ADEQUATE SEED SUPPLIES OBVIOUSLY AVAILABLE. AS CONSEQUENCE NORTH HALF SECOND REGION, ALL FOURTH REGION AND EASTERN PORTION THIRD (KANTIALA) HAVE SCATTERED FIELDS MILLET AND SORGHUM IN OR NEAR FLOWERING STAGE BUT MAJORITY PLANTINGS MADE SUBSEQUENT JULY 20 THUS MUCH LESS ADVANCED VEGETATIVELY. GOOD CROP PROSPECTS POSSIBLE BUT ONLY PROVIDED RAINS CONTINUED THROUGH SEPTEMBER (MID OCTOBER FOR LATE SORGHUM).

4. FIFTH REGION REPORTED BY GOM OFFICIAL TO HAVE NORMAL CROP IN SOUTHERN HALF (MOPTI BANKASS KORE) BUT SAME PROBLEM LATENESS RAIN AND SUBSEQUENT UNEVENNESS CROP CONDITIONS NORTH HALF REGION.

5. EARLY MAIZE OBSERVED BEING HARVESTED AND CONSUMED FROM BAMAKO SOUTH. EARLIEST MILLET (SOUNDIA) SHOULD BE READY HARVEST NORTHERN AREAS STARTING ABOUT MID SEPTEMBER. HARVEST LATE MILLETS, SORGHUM AND MAIZE SHOULD START LATE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER PROVIDED RAINS CONTINUE. ACCORDING REPORTS BAMAKO STILL RECEIVING GOOD RAINS FIRST WEEK SEPTEMBER.

6. NIGER RIVER CONTINUE RISE THUS ENHANCING RICE PROSPECTS SEHOU-MOPTI-OFFICE DE NIGER, WHICH DEPEND RIVER OVERFLOW. SORGHUM PRODUCTION SIXTH REGION WHICH ALSO DEPENDS SAME FLOODING (CULTURE DE CRUE) SHOULD BE POSSIBLE PROVIDED RIVER CONTINUES PRESENT RISE.

7. SHOULD RAINS CONTINUE INCREASED GRAIN ACREAGE COULD RESULT IN SUFFICIENT GRAIN MOST OR ALL RURAL AREAS (EXCEPT SIXTH REGION). HOWEVER UNLIKELY 1973 CROP WILL PROVIDE GRAIN FOR COMMERCIALIZATION SINCE FARMERS LIKELY STORE ENTIRE PRODUCTION. EXPERT MAKE MORE COMPLETE SURVEY LATE SEPTEMBER-EARLY OCTOBER AFTER RAIN FALL PATTERN ESTABLISHED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DAKAR04036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730941/aaaabdql.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1973 CROP PROSPECTS MALI
TAGS: EAGR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005